The FREEMASON AND FEZ.

IN THE INTEREST OF MASONRY, THE MYSTIC SHRINE AND THE ORDER OF ISIS.

JNO. WESTLEY GEIGER, Editor and Publisher.

VOLUME VII. CEDAR RAPIDS. SEPTEMBER, 1899. MARION, IOWA. No. 9.

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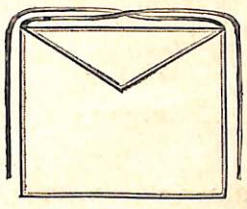

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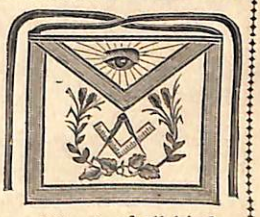

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ALEXANDER LAURANCE.

SIXTY-SEVEN YEARS A MASON.

Though we have presented the following item of interest at the time of the sixty-fifth anniversary of "Father" Laurance's Masonic life, we take pleasure in sending it forth again, and may he live many more years to be honored by his adopted Lodge:

"Alexander Laurance was born September 30, 1811, in the parish of New Deer, County of Aberdeen, Scotland.

He became a member of Fraser Lodge A. F. & A. M., at Strichan, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, on Aug. 14, 1832. This lodge was organized as an operative body, but later speculative Masons were admitted as members. At the time of "Father" Laurrnce's raising it was one of few operative lodges still in existence. Other similar lodges then existed and so continued for some time in Scotland. These all kept possession of and worked the Royal Arch as pertaining to and being part of the Master Mason's degree.

Mr. Laurance left his native country for the United States in 1835. At that time opposition to the order had become a political issue and in some sections of the country ignorance and prejudice had made known membership in the Masonic Order a source of danger. This storm subsided, however, and Masonry, stronger than before, was again triumphant. "Father" Laurance did not avail himself of the privileges of the order until he settled in Cedar Rapids, where under the Mastership of A. R. West, he was admitted as a member of Crescent Lodge No. 25, of which body he has since been an honored member."

In the Commanderies

From R. E. Sir John F. Merrill, G. C., of California, by Sir Alf. Wingate, comes a circular announcing that "George F. Davis, alias George Davis, and G. F. Davis, claiming to be a member of Golden Gate Commandery No. 16, (he says 82), San Francisco, is a fraud, working Iowa Templars, and unworthy of knightly courtesy."

The Triennial Committee of Kentucky is raising $100,000.00 for the entertainment of their guests in 1901. Whoo!

In Pennsylvania they have "Line Officers' Associations," composed of line officers of the Commanderies in certain districts.

TEMPLAR PARK CAMPING CLUB.

At a meeting of the campers held July 21, 1899, it was decided to arrange for a barbecue on the 26th. Through the efficient management of Sir Joe Hardy, W. H. Foote, and others, one of the most successful events of any season, took place on the lawn on the above evening. Over 200 partook of the veal roast and the savory meats accompanying them. The ladies were most efficient in attending to the wants of their guests. After the feast a permanent organization was formed, with the following officers:

T. B. Lacy, President.
Joe Hardy, First Vice-President.
J. M. Murray, Second Vice-President.
Thos. Adamson, Treasurer.
W. H. Foote, Secretary.

Executive Committe—N. B. Egbert, N. R. Parvin, M. A. Little, Mms. J. B. Atkins, Joe Hardy, Thos. Adamson, S. E. Geiger, J. M. Murray, M. A. Little, W. H. Foote, N. B. Egbert and Mrs. Bowman, together with the officers.

The privileges of membership are as follows: All Knights Templar and the members of their families sojourning on these grounds shall be entitled to membership. All friends of those entitled to membership may be received as honorary members. The object of the club is to hold an annual celebration and cement acquaintance among the campus. Plans are already out for 1900.

One of the best methods of social and Templar intercourse, in Pennsyvania, is the "Line Officers' Association," composed evidently of Past Commanders, Commanders, Generalissimos, Captains General, in a certain territory, with monthly meetings and a program.

Frank S. Armstrong & Co., of Detroit, have presented to Grand Commandery of Iowa a beautiful twelve foot American flag for use at the conclaves. Sir Knight Armstrong spent some time at Templar Park recently, and this is one of the courteous acts he is capable of. His firm is one of the youngest and most vigorous and most worthy of patronage.

Among the Lodges.

There are not quite enough Grand Lodge offices to go around.—*Masonic Standard.*

We have received Vol. 1, No. 2, of "Blue Lodge," published at Dayton, Ohio, $1.00 per year, which to send our exchange. Its official imprint designates it "the official organ of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the state of Ohio."

We have received "The Signet," devoted to the interests of Masonry, Hot Springs, S. D., monthly, $1.00 per year. Edwin S. Hines, editor and publisher.

El-Kader is planning for new quarters for the Masonic bodies.

Spencer is enjoying Masonic prosperity, they are alive and at work.

In Des Moines fully seventy-five have been "raised" within the last few months and the work goes on.

Sibley is not asleep, as they have summer work going on there.

LeMars, as always, sets the pace for all others in the line of activity in all the bodies. It is Tom Adamson's town.

Cherokee keeps an open eye on all that's going on. The boys are alive and at it.

DISTRICT SCHOOLS.

We commence this month the publication of the plan for schools for instruction, as to be held by Bro. Geo. B. Van Saun, G. C. They will appear one month in advance, as last year:

DISTRICT NO. 1.

McGregor, - Oct. 2, 3, 4, 1899.
Decorah, - - Oct. 5, 6. 7, 1899.
New Hampton, Oct. 9, 10, 11, 1899.

Lodges Numbered—66 69 70 72 90 130 135 144 150 154 160 172 181 202 204 214 237 248 274 279 316 333 351 374 395 510 518 542.

DISTRICT NO. 2.

Charles City, - Oct. 16, 17, 18, 1899.
Garner, - - Oct. 19, 20, 21, 1899.
Hampton, - Oct. 23, 24, 25, 1899.

Lodges Numbered—102 129 141 145 191 210 211 213 241 246 250 251 266 294 319 323 326 426 488 498 528 556

It might be well to note that this does not prevent appointments by particular lodges for which provision may be made with the Grand Custodian as of yore.

It is undoubtedly true that Masonry is not exclusively Christian, or Christian and Jewish. The Egyptian Lodges have the Koran on their altars, and Christian Masons, some of high distinction, have visited them, and had a warm reception. In India and elsewhere lodges are held with the sacred book of the country on the altar, whatever it may happen to be, and there Christian, Jew, Mohammedan and Buddhist not infrequently meet in perfect harmony.—*Keystone.*

The Royal Arch.

It was our pleasure to spend an evening in the home city of our M. E. Grand High Prist, W. F. Cleveland, and to grasp the hands of companions among whom we were exalted ten years ago.

Companions should not forget the Grand Convocation at Red Oak next month.

The Council.

The companions have organized a Council at LeMars. G. H. P., W. F. Cleveland, was the instituting officer.

More than enough Councils to form a Grand Council have now been instituted in Iowa since the separation—let labor be resumed in the S. V.

The Scottish Rite.

FREEMASONRY IN WEST AFRICA.

SCOTTISH RITE AND MYSTIC SHRINE STRONGLY ESTABLISHED IN LIBERIA.

Masonry is strongly fixed among the colored men of Liberia. A letter just received by John G. Jones of Chicago, says:

"DEAR SIR AND BROTHER: I have received the several papers and Masonic matters from you of late, and feel it my fraternal duty to make a reply to them. I am always very glad to hear from you on any subject, and since you have so very successfully organized and maintained the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite and the Mystic Shrine in America and Africa, your name will live upon the lips of millions of the sons of Africa, and will ever be a power for good wherever our race is found.

African men regard you to-day as one of the greatest negroes in all America, and whether you are aware of it or not, you have a potent influence both in Africa and continental Europe because you had the sagacity to give the Mystic Shrine to the negroes of the world.

I am getting on successfully with the institute work here. Am working now to establish a female seminary, as it is greatly needed. Great pressure is now being brought to bear upon me at this time to have me accept the responsible position of county attorney for Mountsumado county, but I have not given it as yet my approval.

His excellency, W. D. Coleman, has been re-elected President of the republic of Liberia by a majority of 15,000. He is a broad, liberal-minded statesman. Liberia will be stimulated to cultivate commercial relations with America, opening a line of steamers direct to New York from Monrovia, and by so doing American capital will be induced to seek investment in Liberia, whose fertile soil and rich mineral belts offer great inducements.

Yours fraternally,
P. O. GRAY."

The United Supreme Council 33° Colored Scottish Rite Masons met in Cleveland, Ohio, on August 7th. The Imperial Grand Council of their Mystic Shrine met on the 9th following. Hon. J. G. Jones of Chicago, is at the head of both bodies and M. L. Robinson of Alexandria, is the Imperial Grand Recorder—Salaam.

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Published Monthly

JNO WESTLEY GEIGER, K. T., 32°,
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Drawer E, Marion, Iowa.

CEDAR RAPIDS. SEPT. 1899. MARION, IOWA.

GRAND GATHERINGS.

GRAND LODGES MEET.
Iowa, Mason City, June 6, 1899.

THOS. LAMBERT....Sabula.....GRAND MASTER
T. S. Parvin.....Cedar Rapids.....Grand Secretary

CONVOCATIONS, R. A. M.
Iowa, Grand, Red Oak, October 19th, 1899.
W. F. CLEVELAND...Harlan....GRAND HIGH PRIEST
Alf. Wingate.....Des Moines.....Grand Secretary

CONCLAVES K. T.
Grand Encampment, Louisville, Ky., Aug. 27, 1901.
Iowa Grand, Templar Park, July 14, 1899.
J. H. PETTIBONE...Burlington..GRAND COMMANDER
Alf. Wingate.....Des Moines.....Grand Recorder

GRAND CHAPTERS O. E. S.
General Grand (U. S.,) Sept., 1900, Cincinnati.
Iowa, Oct. 25,1899, Davenport.
MRS. M. B. RATHBUN..Clinton.....GRAND MATRON
W. H. Norris.....Manchester.....Grand Patron
Mrs. Maria Jackson...Council Bluffs.....Grand Recorder

THE MYSTIC SHRINE.
Imperial Council, Washington, D. C., May —, 1900.
JOHN H. ATWOOD, Leavenworth, Kan IMP. POTENTATE
Ben. W. Rowell.....Boston, Mass.....Recorder

El-Kahir Temple, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.
E. I. ALDERMAN .....Marion..... POTENTATE
John Westley Geiger.....Marion..... .....Recorder

TO OUR EXCHANGES,

Will those of our exchanges heretofore sent to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, please change the address to Marion, Iowa, and oblige US? Several miles of street car riding will be saved and the exchanges reach us more promptly. Either change or cancel. See? tf

---

Hot!

Prosperity!

Work moving!

Masonic bodies growing!

The Mystic Shrine getting there!

The Order of Isis beginning to take the eyes of the Nobility in the "Crescent" form.

When you don't see a word in any department naturally included in this journal, register your kick—but send enough money to pay a year's subscriptiom in advance to it. The kick will reach us in that way.

Our plans are slowly but naturally developing so that we will be likely to ring-up a surprise to our subscribers before the "flowers bloom in May." Watch our smoke; but send fifty to help us make smoke?

It may seem all right to some that Masonic editors and writers should thrust unbrotherly hints and innuendoes at each other on the least provocation, but to us it is uncalled for. Where courtesy ceases and personal attack begins, our ways part.

We may have erred in times past, but we hope never to do so again, and we will not intentionally encourage it in others. There is a vast difference between a manly or womanly and spirited presentation of arguments and the expectoration of expletives and personalities.

El-Kahir Temple is starting out for her usual "meeting a month" with New Hampton for September 27th; Cherokee, October 12th; Estherville in November, and Cedar Rapids "annual" December 13th. Things look lively.

The Mystic Shrine.

A SHORT STORY OF THE MYSTIC SHRINE.

BY THE EDITOR.

[*Introduction continued.*]

Since the publication of the first installment, (August number) an item from the "Canadian Craftsman" under the caption, "Founder of the Mystic Shrine," has come under our notice and is the sufficient excuse for a reversion to the subject of the beginning of the Order.

Among the foremost, "first among his equals" we find Dr. Walter I. Fleming the first Imperial Potentate of North America, whom the "Craftsman" characterizes as "the active worker and promoter of the

Shrine, without whose noble and fine qualities of head and heart the Shrine would have remained a hidden mystery in this country."

Albert Leighton Rawson, who made a pilgrimage to Mecca in 1851-2, disguised as a Mahammedan student of medicine, tells the story of how Billy Florence started the Order, in a few words. The actor had said "I wish I could do something to make myself famous!" "But you are already famous," attested Mr. Rawson. "But I want to do something outside of the drama," responded the inimitable member from Cohosh. Dr. Fleming suggested the founding of the Mystic Shrine as an Order in America. Mr. Rawson had in 1853, been initiated into the Order of Bektash Dervishes, and from him came the inspiration of the incantations, the oriental symbolism and mystic allegory which makes the texture of this great fraternity's ritual."

It might be expected that I would acknowledge some fear and trembling at the seemingly difficult task I am about to undertake, but I cannot make any such false statement at this stage of the undertaking, Mine is a labor of love, for the good of a high-minded and noble class of my friends and peers, men of whom I have no reason to feel afraid—I am one of them. The preparation of this work has been in the mind of the writer for some time, and with this end in view, he has kept close attention upon the items of information that have come to him from any reliable source. As is the case with all Fraternities, where "origin is veiled in mysterious past," there is the usual difficulty in finding the tangled threads, dropped in the far distant ages whose secrets are now being slowly drawn from them by research and scholarship. Of course, we find much of the traditional that has come down to us from those who long ago conducted the "weary sons of the desert across the hot sands to Mecca." We can enter into the feelings of the occasions that bred a charming atmosphere of romance about the simple forms first used in the initiation of the candidate for honors of Shereefdom. We've been there ourself.

That no confusion might ensue, (such has often been our impression when trying to read the real out of the imaginary, in histories of Ancient Craft Masonry,) in reading this book, we have classified its contents under such separate headings as seem best to preserve their identity. As we prefer all the information we propose to convey should be found in the several chapters of the work itself, we present it with a request to deal kindly with its faults, and to accept the will for a far nobler deed. THE AUTHOR.

E. I. Alderman, Potentate of El-Kahir, is honored doubly in an Imperial Council office and President of the National Firemen's Association. He's all right anywhere, is our old pard.

The usual activity among the Temples, for summer outings, has been evident. The fall work has commenced.

To P. I. P., Noble Harrison Dingman, we owe thanks for a pair of Washington buttons bearing the announcement that "I am for Washington in 1900, Almas Temple."

We have it from both official and Washington sources, that every effort will he made to welcome *every* Noble and all his folks who come to Washington next year.

Passengers are booking already for the El-Kahir solid train to Washington in 1900.

We hear it heralded from "mouth to ear," that Tangier will have another "Shrine day" during the month of October, at which the Tribes of the Desert will again honor "Fatima!"

The *Missouri Freemason* says that "we notice a disposition on the part of our contempories to advise action, on the part of Blue Masonry, looking to the forbidding of members of the Fraternity becoming connected with the Mystic Shrine. No matter what our opinion may be of the Shrine; no matter how much the profane world may fume and fret and make faces; no matter how much the priest may condemn or the bishop anathematize, it is composed of men whose standing is vouched for by the Blue Lodge, and who are as respectable as the average Mason, in spite of the fact that they may occasionally smother an acquired seriousness in a burst of hilarity. A Grand Lodge has no more right to discipline a member for becoming a member of the 'Shrine' than it has to expel one for enlisting in the Salvation Army or joining the Catholic Church. If the individual Mason violates a Masonic law, at a meeting of the

Shrine, or in a building dedicated to the services of God, he should be prosecuted for un-Masonic conduct; if he violates no law, he should not be condemned by Masons, no matter how much the outside world may rave. If we indulge in orgies in violation of the moral law, the virtuous Masons or profane, have a perfect right to condemn us, as individuals, or en masse, but not without due trial and indisputable evidence of guilt. We do not ask the vicious and immoral man to teach us our duty, nor need we care how much our enemies condemn us, so long as we follow the paths of rectitude, over the smooth places, through the bogs and swamps of adversity, up the hill, down the dale, or through the ripling, dancing, laughing waters that give us life and light and hope. Masonry never will accomplish anything by force, except its own disintegration and possible destruction."—*American Tyler.*

Alladin Temple, Columbus, Ohio, gave $35,000 toward the new Masonic Temple just completed.

CHAPTER I.

TRADITIONAL HISTORY OF THE ORDER.

The characteristic features of all Ancient Orders is, that they cannot be said to have been founded, as they now are, by any one man, nor at any certain period of time, being rather a growth and development through the centuries, and an adaptation to the wants and circumstances of their votaries. This is true of this Fraternity, and its transplanting "from over sea" has given it the advantage of having all the settings of its ancient "Arabia," with the arc light of this nineteenth century thrown over and through it, till old Rameses the Second would be in luck to be privileged to receive its mysteries as they are imparted under the Imperial Council System of North America. The criticism that this Order should not have made a prerequisite to its membership the attainment of a certain Masonic recognition, carries no weight with it, any more than it would to object to the making or not making a man a Mason whom our prejudices had hedged around with conditions that exist only in the cells of a disordered brain. While there is no organic connection between the Masonic Rites, from which all applicants must come asking to be "as servants unto us," there is that happy relation that no authority has yet, or can justly intradict—a union of those who "best can work and best agree."

From two different documents, published by authority of the Imperial Council for North America, we beg to acknowledge the finding of most of the information contained in this chapter.

"The Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine was instituted by the Mohammedan Kalif Alee, the cousin German and son-in-law of the Prophet Mohammed, in the year of the Hegira 25, (A. D. 644), at Mecca, in Arabia, as an inquisition, or vigilance committee, to dispense justice and execute punishment upon criminals who escaped their just deserts through the tardiness of the courts, and also to promote religious toleration among cultured men of all nations. The original intention was to form a band of men of sterling worth, who would, without fear or favor, having upon a valid accusation, try, judge, and execute, if need be within the hour, having taken precautions as to secrecy and security." Our readers must not take this as an indication that the incidental conditions of the system of speedy trials and executions, as practiced in our western civilization, by the courts of Judge Lynch, were derived from this more ancient practice of law, for be it remembered, so closely had the secrets of the Order been guarded, that though our ancestors offered immense bribes and costly presents, none ever succeeded, until our own Illustrious Noble Florence charmed the oriental mind with his wit and dramatic lore, did the sacred rolls unfurl and surrender to the new west the treasures of the Kaaba." The Nobles perfected their organization, and did such prompt and efficient work that they excited alarm, and even consternation in the hearts of evil doers in all countries under the star and crescent.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

The Eastern Star.

FROM THE WORTHY GRAND MATRON.

CLINTON, IOWA, Aug. 10, 1899.

BRO. GEIGER:

Here is a list of Chapters organized up to date, with name of Chapter, location, and date organized. There are several more grinding:

May Flower, Deep River, Dec. 12.
White Rose, Sabula, Dec. 16.
Oak Leaf, Salem, Jan. 27.
Winthrop, Winthrop, Feb. 1.
Nashua, Nashua, Feb. 3.
Bethany, Osage, Feb. 10.
Lincoln Star, Blairstown, March 6.
Smithland, Smithland, March 9.
Adair, Adair, March 17.
Promise City, Promise City, March 29.
Linden. Linden, March 31.
Truth, Forest City, April 18.
Monona, Monona, April 20.
Wapello, Wapello, May 3.
Twin City, Douds, July, 7.
Le Grand, Le Grand, July 11.
America, Griswold, July 13.

MARY B. RATHBUN.

The Chapter at Harlan is showing its usual vigor.

Though Pennsylvania looks askance at the Eastern Star they have their "Ladies' Auxiliary" of the Commanderies of Knights Templars, and they will come to the other too. Give them time.

From the Grand Secretary of Iowa, we have a card bringing the information that the School of Instruction at Grand Chapter will be Tuesday afternoon, October 24, with a reception and entertainment by Davenport Chapter in the evening. Of course the Grand Chapter opens October 25th.

Order of Isis.

The Order is all right and sure to grow.

Fatima, No. 1, Waterloo, has work, and the cool weather will see it moving.

The instructions for the Open Section are issued and the Ode Cards are ready for delivery.

There are fair prospects of Crescent No. 3 being located at either Council Bluffs or Cherokee.

Applications are in evidence at a number of places, and when once the work begins there will be a rush.

Arcana, No. 2, will likely do the work in the Order at the annual meeting, or at any other nearer their home, if held before that time.

Applications for Crescents have come from Kansas and New York, and many places in Iowa will institute this fall and winter.

Arcana Crescent, No. 2, Harlan, Iowa, promises to be one of the most vigorous of the subordinates of the Sublime Court of the Order. On Aug. 28 we were with them and witnessed the adoption of six candidates who are the first of a large number of applicants.

Our Dead.

BRO. GEO. E. DEARBORN.

Through absence and delay we had the merest information of this Brother's death last month. We append the local report:

"Geo. Edward Dearborn was born July 8, 1868, at Anamosa, Iowa. In 1871 his parents moved to Stone City, Iowa, where he resided until his demise, which occurred Monday evening, July 24, 1899, at 4:45 o'clock, at his home, of apoplexy.

He was married June 4, 1891, to Miss L. Siegrist, of Anamosa, Iowa. They were blessed with four bright little children, three girls and one boy, Laura, Martha, Ruth and Fred, aged seven, five, three and one, all of whom survive him with their mother.

He was a member oft he firm of H. Dearborn & Sons, proprietors of the Stone City Quarries.

He was a member of Auamosa Lodge, No. 46, A. F. & A. M.; Mt. Sinai Chapter, No. 66, Royal Arch Masons; Mt. Olivet Commadery, No. 36, Knights Templar; El-Kahir Temple, A. A. O. N. of T. M. S., as well as a member of Stone City Lodge, No. 328, Ancient Order of United Workmen.

Mr. Dearborn's sickness was only of a few hours' duration and was not considered to be of a serious nature. Death came very suddenly and he passed to his home as a child going to sleep, even before his family realized that it was other than peaceful slumber.

Besides his wife and children there survive him father, mother, two brothers, Frank and Will, and two sisters, Mrs. S. Gordon and Mrs. M. Reed.

The funeral was held at the family residence at 2 o'clock P. M. Wednesday, July 26, Rev. Felix H. Pickworth, of Farley, Iowa, officiating. The scriptural lesson was from the 15th chapter and 20th verse of First Corinthians: "But now is Christ risen from the dead."—*Anamosa Eureka.*

Fraternities.

The editor of this journal is looking for information which will be used for the common good in this department. Address, Drawer E, Marion Iowa.

"MASONRY AND BENEFIT SOCIETIES."

We very much doubt the premises of the article under the above title, as quoted from the *Masonic Standard.* The superiority of Masonry in its sphere of influence is not to be called in question—not for a moment, but the comparisons of the article betray an ignorance of the facts, the duality of conditions, which our contemporary has

no intention, we are sure to be guilty of. The statement that "one gives its charities without stint and from a spirit of brotherly affection, the others demand a *quid pro quo* for their benefits," has the essence of this ignorance of the facts in it. Scores of these so-called "Benefit Societies" ranging in age from more than a generation to the young thing of a year, constantly practice, *beside* their regular benefit indemnity, a fraternal charity fitly the characteristic of such imitators of the ancient and honorable institution. To name any of them in particular would be unfair to others equally as worthy of mention, but were it necessary we could produce as striking instances of the practice of charity among them as in our own Masonic ranks. Masonry has no superiors, but we honor any and all her honest imitators, and we approve of the *quid pro quo* business when it can be carried out, too.

The Grand Lodge of Elks at St. Louis, Mo., elected Hon. B. M. Allen, of Birmingham, Ala., G. E. R. Steps were taken to establish a home for aged and indigent Elks—$20,000.00 were subecribed and 100 acres of Indiana land offered as a starter.

The Endowment Rank K. of P. has 5,500 members, and carries $101,546,000 indemnity — its surplus is $480.537.85. The move should stimulate other like Orders to add this "Degree."

Here is "The Fraternal World," official organ of the Missouri Fraternal Congress, A. Jung & Co., publishers, No. 1, Broadway, St. Louis, Mo. Weekly, $1.00 per year. A good paper in a wide field.

In Honolulu the brethren in voting on applicants for the degrees, hold the ball up so that all can see it before it is deposited, and in one of the lodges in Cairo, Egypt, they go behind a curtain in a corner of the lodge room and deposit their ballot. The manner of balloting is as far apart as the localities are distant.—*Texas Freemason.*

There are a good many men who are afraid that their Masonic identity may not be readily recognized, and for this reason sign their names as Jno. Jones, K. T., or 32°. It may look quite big to the uninitiated, but I have a much higher regard for the man who does not publish his Masonic stand in this vain-glorious manner.—*Illinois Freemason.*

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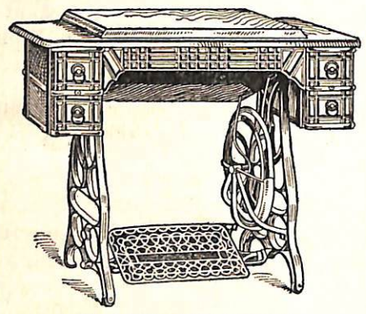

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